

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DIRECTIVE TRANSMITTAL

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To: NRC Management Directives Custodians

Subject: Transmittal of Management Directive 8.2, "NRC Incident Response Program"

Purpose: Directive and Handbook 8.2 are being revised to address changes initiated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) in recognition of the need to support the Department of Homeland Security and to update references in accordance with the National Response Plan.

NOTE: For Interim Use Only

Office and
Division of Origin: Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Division of Preparedness and Response

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NRC Incident Response Program

Directive
8.2

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Volume: 8 Licensee Oversight Programs

NSIR

NRC Incident Response Program

Directive 8.2

Policy

(8.2-01)

- It is the policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be prepared to respond to incidents and emergencies involving licensees, certificate holders (hereafter referred to as "licensees"), and Agreement State licensees. (011)
- Within its statutory responsibilities and authority, NRC has committed to meeting the requirements of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), "Management of Domestic Incidents," and coordinating and supporting its responsibilities identified in the National Response Plan (NRP) and associated annexes. (012)

Objectives

(8.2-02)

- To ensure that the NRC response to incidents and emergencies involving NRC licensees and Agreement State licensees is consistent with the NRC mission, compatible with licensee responsibilities, supportive of the emergency response functions of State and local governments, and coordinated with the responses of other Federal agencies with emergency response responsibilities. (021)
- To ensure that the NRC response to security and safety events is consistent with the national response strategy identified in the NRP and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). (022)

Objectives

(8.2-02) (continued)

- To establish and implement the NRC Incident Response Plan (NUREG-0728) and to identify NRC organizational responsibilities that will provide assistance, commit staff, and manage the NRC response to incidents and emergencies involving regulated facilities and materials. (023)

Organizational Responsibilities and

Delegations of Authority

(8.2-03)

Chairman

(031)

Has ultimate authority for all NRC functions and responsibilities related to incident response to include but not limited to the following:

- Declare an emergency pursuant to the Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980. (a)
- Respond to emergency incidents concerning facilities or materials licensed or regulated by NRC. (b)
- Issue orders and determine specific policies for response to emergency incidents. (c)
- Advise external stakeholders, other Federal agencies, and the public on coordinating actions taken by NRC relative to emergency incidents. (d)

Director of Communications (DOC),

Office of the Chairman

(032)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director of Communications (DOC),
Office of the Chairman
(032) (continued)

- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Is responsible for enhancing the effectiveness of NRC's communications with the public, the media, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Congress in support of the agency's incident response activities. (c)
- Works with the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) in support of the Chairman as a part of the overall agency communications strategy. (d)

Director, Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
(033)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Keeps congressional contacts informed of NRC Incident Response Plan response activities. (c)

Director, Office of International Programs (OIP)
(034)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams. (a)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of International Programs (OIP)
(034) (continued)

- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Assists the Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR), Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), in arranging periodic incident response meetings with Canada and Mexico. Interacts with the U.S. Department of State on incident response issues. (c)
- Coordinates incident response activities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other international organizations. (d)

Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
(035)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Maintains, with DPR and the Office of Information Services (OIS), the NRC News Center capability and manages the center once it is activated. (c)
- Implements an appropriate incident communications strategy to coordinate with other Federal communications efforts. (d)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
(035) (continued)

- Keeps the NRC senior managers informed of licensee, State, and public announcements and actions involving the joint information center. (e)
- Keeps news media informed of NRC actions and coordinates with other public information organizations. (f)
- Responds to information requests from the news media and the general public about the incident. (g)

Executive Director for Operations (EDO)
(036)

- Oversees the NRC Incident Response Program. (a)
- Ensures the cooperation and support of all NRC offices in providing cognizant staff for training (including exercises and special projects) and responding to actual events. (b)
- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (c)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (d)

Director, Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response (NSIR)
(037)

- Directs the NRC Incident Response Program, which is implemented by DPR. (a)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response (NSIR)
(037) (continued)

- Provides programmatic guidance, policies, plans, requirements, and procedures necessary to ensure a standardized NRC Incident Response Program. (b)
- Develops and maintains the Information Assessment Team (IAT) to assess the credibility of threats and informs and coordinates with DHS and other appropriate agencies. (c)
- Maintains the Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan (CIPP), in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Information Officer, and the Continuity of Operations Program. (d)
- Represents NRC as the safeguards and security contact with DHS, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and intelligence and law enforcement communities on counterterrorism and IAT activities. (e)
- Provides classified telecommunications and intelligence support and security advice and assistance in response to security incidents. (f)
- Maintains signature authority for memoranda of understanding coordinated between the NRC and other Federal and State agencies regarding safeguards and nuclear security measures and incident response activities. (g)
- Designates the Director of DPR as the NSIR representative at Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) meetings and coordinates appropriate participation by other offices. (h)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response (NSIR)
(037) (continued)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams or as liaison representatives for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (i)

Director, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
(038)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams or as liaison representatives for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Provides qualified personnel for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
(039)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams or as liaison representatives for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
(039) (continued)

- Provides qualified personnel for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
(0310)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams or as liaison representatives for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)

Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP)
(0311)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Assists DPR in implementation of the State outreach program to increase and improve NRC's interactions with States during exercises and briefings. (c)
- Designates an STP representative to provide NRC representation support at FRPCC meetings on matters related to STP Agreement State activities. (d)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Administration (ADM)
(0312)

- Provides day-to-day operations and maintenance of building equipment and systems for the Headquarters Operations Center and the News Center (e.g., automated energy management and temperature control and support services to maintain a safe and healthy work environment). (a)
- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (b)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (c)
- Represents NRC with other Federal, State, and local agencies and the law enforcement community on matters pertaining to physical security at facilities occupied by NRC or its contractors. (d)

Director, Office of Information
Services (OIS)
(0313)

- Provides qualified personnel to serve on the Headquarters Operations Center incident response teams in the area of telecommunications and NRC infrastructure support. (a)
- Supports training and exercise participation for incident response team members. (b)
- Provides management and funding for the Data Center operation of the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS). (c)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Director, Office of Information
Services (OIS)
(0313) (continued)

- Provides qualified personnel to assist with the operation of computer, telephone, and facsimile equipment in the News Center for OPA. (d)
- In conjunction with the Director of DPR, maintains the NRC CIPP. (e)
- Provides infrastructure telecommunications to the Headquarters Operations Center and News Center. (f)

General Counsel (GC),
Office of the General Counsel (OGC)
(0314)

- Participates in training of incident investigation team and augmented inspection team members. (a)
- Provides legal advice, as requested, during incident investigations and augmented inspections. (b)

Inspector General (IG),
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
(0315)

May participate as an observer during the response to an incident.

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Regional Administrators (RAs)
(0316)

- Maintain a functional Regional Incident Response Center for a Regional Base Team. (a)
- Maintain an effective incident response capability. (b)
- Select a staff member or members to serve as the full-time Regional Incident Response Coordinator or Coordinators. (c)
- Provide Regional Duty Officers for the receipt of incident notifications during and after normal office hours. (d)
- Provide qualified personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (e)
- Provide training and support participation in exercises for incident response team members. (f)
- Maintain the capability to staff the Regional Incident Response Center promptly. (g)
- Support an outreach program for other regional Federal agencies to identify resources and develop working arrangements to support NRC as the Coordinating Agency in response to incidents. (h)
- Manage the regional program to provide potassium iodide to regional inspectors. (i)
- Support an outreach program to ensure that State and local organizations and licensees are aware of the resources of NRC and other Federal agencies to support them during an actual event. (j)

Organizational Responsibilities and
Delegations of Authority
(8.2-03) (continued)

Regional Administrators (RAs)
(0316) (continued)

- Support a program to attend meetings of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center working groups, Regional Interagency Steering Committees, Regional Response Teams, and other Federal agency meetings to integrate the NRC regional response with the response of other Federal agencies. (k)

Applicability
(8.2-04)

The policy and guidance in this directive and handbook apply to all NRC employees.

Handbook
(8.2-05)

Handbook 8.2 contains the major components of the NRC Incident Response Program, identifies objectives for NRC incident response at headquarters and the regional offices, establishes responsibilities, and provides general guidance.

Definitions
(8.2-06)

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5)

HSPD-5 enhances the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System (NIMS). The policy of this directive is to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks on and major disasters and other emergencies of

Definitions

(8.2-06) (continued)

the U.S. Government and establishes a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management. The Secretary of Homeland Security is the principal Federal official for domestic incident management and administers the National Response Plan (NRP) and its associated annexes. Nothing in this directive alters or impedes the ability of NRC to carry out its statutory authority and responsibilities as identified under law. NRC cooperates with the Department of Homeland Security in its domestic incident management role.

National Response Plan (NRP) and Associated Annexes

The NRP and its associated annexes describe the structure and processes comprising a national approach to domestic incident management designed to integrate the efforts and resources of Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. The NRP includes planning assumptions, roles and responsibilities, concept of operations, preparedness guidelines, and plan maintenance instructions. The associated annexes detail the missions, policies, structures, and responsibilities of Federal agencies for coordinating resources and programmatic support to States and other Federal agencies or other jurisdictions and entities during incidents of national significance. NRC is identified as the Coordinating or Cooperating Agency in the various annexes.

Incident of National Significance (INS)

An INS is an actual or potential high-impact event that requires a coordinated and effective response by an appropriate combination of Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental entities in order to save lives, minimize damage, and provide the basis for long-term community recovery and mitigation activities.

Definitions

(8.2-06) (continued)

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a consistent nationwide template to enable Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism. NIMS provides a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the incident command system; multi-agency coordination systems; unified command; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualifications and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources.

References

(8.2-07)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Management Directives

8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program."

8.9, "Accident Investigation."

NUREGs

NUREG/BR-0150, "Response Technical Manual."

NUREG-0728, "NRC Incident Response Plan."

NUREG-1303, "Incident Investigation Manual."

References

(8.2-07) (continued)

Other NRC References

(CIPP) Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan

Other Federal Guidance

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5),
"Management of Domestic Incidents."

National Response Plan (NRP) and Associated Annexes,
December 2004.

Presidential Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980.

United States Code

Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et
seq.).

NRC Incident Response Program

Handbook

8.2

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Part I Incident Response Planning Organization

NRC Incident Response Program (A)

The NRC Incident Response Program encompasses the NRC response to incidents that occur at nuclear facilities and incidents involving nuclear materials or radiological activities licensed by NRC or an Agreement State. Within its statutory responsibilities and authority, NRC has committed to meeting the requirements of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), "Management of Domestic Incidents," and coordinating and supporting its responsibilities identified in the National Response Plan (NRP) and associated annexes. (1)

NSIR is responsible for developing and maintaining the NRC Incident Response Program and its implementing plan and procedures and for assuring incident response readiness through comprehensive assessment, training, and exercise programs. (2)

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) (B)

Director of DPR (1)

The Director of DPR is responsible for the following activities:

- Developing, implementing, and maintaining the NRC Incident Response Program. (a)
- Ensuring the operational readiness of the NRC incident response capability, including the continuous functionality of the Headquarters Operations Center and its telecommunications, computer, and other response systems, equipment, and tools. (b)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Director of DPR (1) (continued)

- Providing 24-hour-a-day response staffing for the Headquarters Operations Center. (c)
- Providing qualified personnel to serve as incident response team members for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (d)
- Coordinating incident response exercises. (e)
- Calling on other NRC offices to provide staff to receive training, participate in incident response exercises, and respond to incidents. (f)
- Providing training and maintaining training records for incident response team members. (g)
- Maintaining and revising the NRC Incident Response Plan and implementing procedures. (h)
- Providing direct resources in the form of full-time equivalent (FTE) position(s) to each regional office to coordinate and maintain the Regional Incident Response Program. (i)
- Establishing criteria and performing reviews to confirm that the regional offices maintain an effective incident response capability. (j)
- Maintaining an outreach program for other Federal agencies to identify resources and develop working arrangements to support NRC as the Coordinating Agency in response to radiological incidents or emergencies and for NRC to support

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Director of DPR (1) (continued)

and cooperate with other Federal agencies when they are the designated Coordinating or Cooperating Agency in response to other incidents and emergencies as identified in the NRP. (k)

- Representing NRC as the incident response contact with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Energy (DOE), and other Federal agencies. (l)
- Coordinating with the Division of Nuclear Security to issue advisories to NRC licensees and Agreement States concerning terrorism threat level changes. (m)
- Supporting an outreach program to ensure that State organizations and licensees are aware of the resources of NRC and other Federal agencies that are available to support them during an actual event. (n)
- Maintaining, reviewing, and coordinating memoranda of understanding with other organizations relative to incident response activities. (o)
- Administering the incident investigation program to meet the objectives set forth in Management Directive (MD) 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program." Establishing and maintaining the NRC capability for investigating operational events with the assistance of other NRC offices; maintaining a roster of Incident Investigation Team (IIT) candidates. Coordinating IIT training requirements as defined in MD 8.3. (p)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Director of DPR (1) (continued)

- Maintaining, with the assistance of other NRC offices, a capability for investigating incidents of national significance (INSS) or an event of extraordinary safety significance to meet the objectives set forth in MD 8.9, "Accident Investigation." (q)
- Making appropriate arrangements for the continuity of essential operations of NRC in response to any catastrophic or disastrous incident and maintaining the NRC Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). (r)
- Representing NRC at meetings sponsored by the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (Department of Commerce) as the Chief Infrastructure Assurance Officer (CIAO) and, in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Information Officer, maintaining the NRC Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan (CIPP). (s)
- Representing NRC at the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee meetings and serving as a member of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center working groups, the Catastrophic Disaster Response Group, and the National Response Team. (t)
- Representing NRC on selected DHS Policy Coordination Committees and Working Groups. (u)
- Representing NRC by supporting and participating in international incident response activities, including technical cooperation and information exchange. (v)
- Representing NRC as the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) National Officer regarding INES activities. (w)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Incident Response Directorate (IRD) (2)

In addition, IRD shall ensure that NRC is prepared to meet its responsibilities identified in the NRP and associated annexes and to respond to an incident involving an NRC or an Agreement State licensee by coordinating Federal resources to support State and local officials; managing and training NRC response teams; and developing, documenting, and maintaining response tools. The DPR Coordination Section is responsible for the following activities:

- Ensuring that both NRC and external responding organizations are familiar with the NRC's role, plans, and procedures and that plans and procedures are in place to ensure that the overall NRC response is coordinated with DHS and is consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public and the common defense and security. (a)
- Ensuring that these external responding organizations are supported by the information and training necessary for them to perform their incident response functions and duties in support of NRC. (b)
- Training NRC personnel on the plans and procedures associated with the NRC Incident Response Program. (c)
- Developing and maintaining procedures to initiate a prompt NRC incident response and staffing of the NRC incident response teams. (d)
- Ensuring that the NRC regional incident response programs are coordinated and standardized and that regional personnel are sufficiently trained to respond effectively as members of regional base and site teams. (e)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Incident Response Directorate (IRD) (2) (continued)

- Developing, validating, and maintaining computer tools to support the NRC Incident Response Program. (f)
- Ensuring that NRC incident response organization (IRO) exercise performance is evaluated utilizing established, predetermined performance standards. (g)
- Developing and maintaining the plans and procedures necessary to ensure that the response from the Headquarters Operations Center is coordinated and consistent with requirements identified in the NRP and associated annexes for protection of the health and safety of the public and the common defense and security. (h)
- Maintaining current directories and call lists of emergency response contacts. (i)
- Maintaining the program for receipt of incident notifications with support from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. (j)
- Providing management and funding of the telecommunications capabilities supporting the Headquarters Operations Center. (k)
- Maintaining computer systems and equipment in the Headquarters Operations Center. (l)
- Providing and maintaining the telephone system and bridging equipment in the Headquarters Operations Center. (m)

Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response (NSIR),
Division of Preparedness and
Response (DPR) (B) (continued)

Incident Response Directorate (IRD) (2) (continued)

- Maintaining continuous shift staffing of the Headquarters Operations Center. (n)
- Receiving and initially evaluating reactor reports, nuclear material reports, and other information for safety and security significance. (o)
- Assisting in tracking shipments of radioactive material shipments—quantities of concern (RAM-QC), including import, export, domestic shipment, and transshipments. (p)
- Subsequently notifying NRC Headquarters and regional offices, DHS Homeland Security Operations Center, and other Federal agencies for further evaluation and/or rapid response. (q)
- Receiving and initially evaluating safeguards-related reports and other safeguards information for security significance. (r)
- Subsequently notifying NRC Headquarters Threat Assessment Section members for further evaluation. (s)
- Supporting the initial response to an incident or the rapid activation of the Headquarters Operations Center. (t)
- Coordinating with other agency representatives for notification, assessment, and coordination purposes. (u)

NRC Regional Offices (C)

The NRC regional offices have the following components in place to implement the NRC Incident Response Program: (1)

- An effective incident response capability. (a)
- Staff member(s) to serve as the full-time Regional Incident Response Coordinator(s) (IRC[s]). (b)
- A Regional Duty Officer Program for the receipt of initial notifications during and after normal office hours. (c)
- Qualified personnel to serve as team members for response to an incident and as appropriate to support interagency response activities. (d)
- An incident response training program for regional staff. (e)
- A regional exercise plan that includes participation in a selected exercise or exercises and assessment of the team's performance. (f)
- A functional Regional Incident Response Center. (g)
- The capability to staff the Regional Incident Response Center in a timely manner. (h)
- The capability to dispatch site teams in response to an incident in a timely manner. (i)
- An outreach program to provide information on incident response issues to State and regional Federal organizations and to licensees. (j)
- Current directories of regional incident response contacts. (k)

NRC Regional Offices (C) (continued)

The regional office(s) designated as the NRC's alternate incident response site pursuant to the COOP will have additional trained response staff and enhanced telecommunications and computer systems and equipment capabilities. (2)

Part II

Incident Response Organization: Qualifications, Training, and Exercises and Drills

Qualifications (A)

The Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) and the regional offices maintain rosters of qualified incident responders to staff the incident response organization (IRO) in accordance with the NRC Incident Response Plan and implementing procedures. (1)

DPR, in consultation with the regional offices, determines the qualifications for incident response positions. (2)

Training (B)

DPR, regional office, and Technical Training Center (TTC) staffs provide headquarters and regional personnel with the level of training necessary to perform assigned incident response functions and maintain response readiness. Detailed information on training programs is provided in NUREG-0728 and support procedures.

Exercises and Drills (C)

DPR and the regional offices coordinate NRC participation in periodic exercises for power reactors, fuel cycle facilities, transportation, and material incidents and events to practice, learn, and assess the response procedure and to confirm and maintain the capabilities of NRC's response personnel, both at headquarters and in the regional offices. This process will include incorporation of "lessons learned" for continuous improvement of the Incident Response Program. (1)

Exercises and Drills (C) (continued)

DPR and the regional offices will, to the extent possible, participate in incident response exercises that include scenarios with significant ingestion pathway and security aspects to promote an integrated licensee, local, State, and Federal response. (2)

The NRC incident response exercise schedule, prepared by DPR, with input provided by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards in coordination with the regional offices, describes the incident response exercise program for each year. (3)

DPR also coordinates NRC's participation in large-scale incident response exercises, Federal interagency exercises, technical exercises, counterterrorism exercises, exercises that have a radiological component, and incident response tabletop exercises organized and conducted by other organizations having radiological responsibilities. Regional office support of these exercises will be on a case-by-case basis. (4)

Part III

Incident Response Facilities and Resources

Headquarters Operations Center (A)

The Headquarters Operations Center (HOC) is the NRC Headquarters center for incident response communications during an incident. (1)

The HOC shall be equipped with communications and response facilities and resources to support incident response. Detailed information on the HOC is provided in NUREG-0728 and support procedures. (2)

The HOC is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with Headquarters Operations Officers and Headquarters Incident Response Officers (as appropriate to the threat condition level). (3)

Procedures are in place (the NRC Continuity of Operations Plan [COOP]) to transfer the minimum essential functions of the HOC to the alternate location as conditions require. (4)

Regional Incident Response Centers (B)

The Regional Incident Response Centers are the NRC regional office centers for incident response communications during an incident. (1)

The Regional Incident Response Centers shall be equipped with communications and response facilities and resources to support incident response. Detailed information on Regional Incident Response Centers is provided in NUREG-0728 and support procedures. (2)

Procedures shall be in place to transfer the backup incident response minimum essential functions to other locations as conditions require. (3)

Part IV

Incident Response Plan, Procedures, and Tools

Incident Response Plan (A)

The Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) develops and periodically updates the “NRC Incident Response Plan” (NUREG-0728), the overall response program guidance document, that assigns responsibilities for performing incident response functions and making the decisions governing the NRC response to incidents involving NRC and Agreement State licensees. If the provisions of NUREG-0728 conflict with other NRC documents, the provisions of NUREG-0728 will prevail. (1)

The NRC Incident Response Plan identifies the following: (2)

- NRC commitments in meeting the requirements of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), “Management of Domestic Incidents,” and coordinating and supporting responsibilities identified in the National Response Plan (NRP) and associated annexes. (a)
- The NRC incident response groups, including headquarters, the Regional Base Team, and the site team. (b)
- Responsibilities of the licensees, NRC Headquarters and regional offices, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies. (c)
- Response modes, functions, and recovery activities. (d)

Procedures and Guidance Documents (B)

DPR shall develop and/or maintain response program guidance and documents for normal operations and to assist in performance of assessments and response to an incident. Detailed information on procedures and guidance documents are provided in NUREG-0728.

Tools - Information Technology
and Communications Systems (C)

Information technology and communications systems used to support incident response shall be detailed in NUREG-0728 or support procedures. (1)

Software computer programs and codes shall be available for incident response. These programs and codes shall be identified in support procedures. (2)

Part V

Interaction With Other Organizations

Federal Coordination (A)

The Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) coordinates the NRC response to radiological incidents and interacts with a number of Federal response-related committees, groups, and centers that are chaired or coordinated by other agencies. DPR, in coordination with other NRC offices, designates representatives to support these other Federal agencies. A description of key committees, groups, and centers that interface with the Executive Branch, the Department of Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies is provided in NUREG-0728 and support procedures.

State, Local, and Tribal Coordination (B)

State, local, and Tribal outreach programs designed to increase and improve NRC's interactions with other officials during incidents are conducted to improve understanding of the response to a severe accident or other incident at a facility for which NRC is the Coordinating Agency.

Licensee Coordination (C)

Periodic exercises are conducted with licensees to maintain a coordinated site emergency response system and to conduct periodic exercises with licensees to test the NRC incident response organization.

International Liaison (D)

International liaison activities are coordinated by the Office of International Programs and include the following:

- Participation on international committees (e.g., the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency)

International Liaison (D) (continued)

to conduct exercises, share research, exchange experience, and develop standard emergency response guidance. (1)

- Periodic meetings with Canadian and Mexican response organizations to develop a coordinated response to incidents with cross-border implications. (2)